

mission fields at home

May-June, 1960

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

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Educating for
LEADERSHIP!

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class of
'60



on the threshold
of leadership, champion
the Christian principle
of **UNITY**.



Mr. Julius Saul,
industrial arts
major, helped
make the rings.



Members of the Class of '60 Misses Josepha Martinez, Joy Bachemin, Charmaine Lecesne and Mr. Julius Saul with Sister Paul Mary, class moderator, study proposed designs for class ring.

Xavier's Class of '60 are proving their powers of leadership through the ingenuity and steadfastness with which they have stood by a principle — the Christian principle of UNITY.

This is the story of their class ring. But it is more than that. It is an expression of Christian ONENESS . . . EQUALITY . . . INTEGRATION. It is a symbol of their life.

In May, 1959, a representative of the company from which Xavier University had been buying rings for many years took a public stand on the in-

tegration issue which was opposed to Xavier's principle of unity. The students wished to break the contract.

Since the university was bound by contract until 1961 and since a contract is a binding moral obligation, Sister M. Josephina, X.U.'s president, wrote repeatedly to the company asking to be relieved of the contract. The company refused.

The class were ready to do without rings for a principle.

Then came the idea—"Why not MAKE rings." Since

this would violate no contract and since many of the class wanted something to show for their adherence to the principle of UNITY whatever the cost, the Class of '60 agreed to MAKE THEIR OWN RINGS. A number of designs were submitted, studied and voted upon. Then it was decided.

WHEAT! Symbol of the many grains which form the one bread! That would be the motif of the ring of the Class of '60. "We, though many, are one body all of us who partake of the one bread."

Sister M. Lurana, S.B.S., assistant art professor at Xavier designed the ring. Art teacher, Miss Catherine Ricks, made the first one.

The students carried on from there.

Comments like these from the Class of '60 echoed through Xavier during the days of the making of the rings. "I'm in favor of what it represents." "Beautiful! I just love it." "Simple and rich." "Truly a work of art." "A good example of what young moderns think and feel."

When members of a graduating class have so thoroughly grasped Christian principles and are so ready to live by them, we know that our goal of "educating for leadership" has been attained.

We salute the Class of '60 who rightfully term themselves the "dreamers who dare."



Sr. M. Lurana, assistant professor of art, designed the ring selected by the Class of '60. Here she examines work of a sophomore art student.

Xavier University, founded in New Orleans by Mother Katharine Drexel in 1925, has today an annual enrollment of over 1,000 students. This university, conducted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, has been the keystone of their "educating for leadership" for the past three decades.

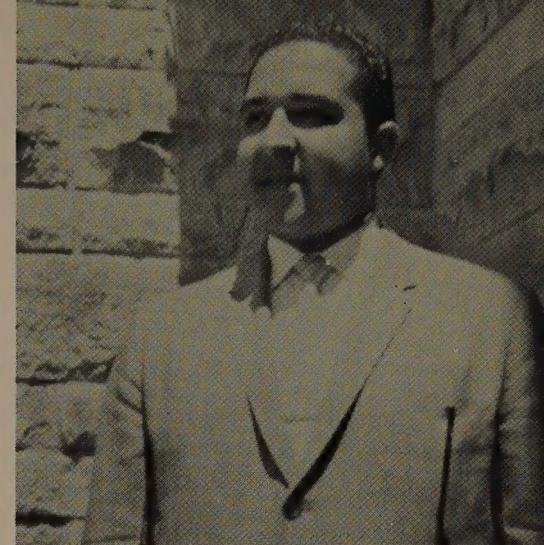
Men and women have gone forth from X. U. as teachers, as social workers, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, administrators. Xavier's graduates have become priests, sisters, doctors, lawyers, government agents. All are making a meritorious contribution to the educational, social, religious and political life of their community. They are all vitally interested in creating a better world and are using their "education for leadership" to bring their fellowmen to their Creator.

At present the university is in the midst of a much needed building expansion program. The present permanent buildings at Xavier were erected to accommodate 500 students. Because the enrollment has doubled that number, and because the small temporary structures have reached the end of their ten years' service, it is urgently imperative that four new buildings be added with all possible speed — a science building, student center, women's residence, fine arts building.

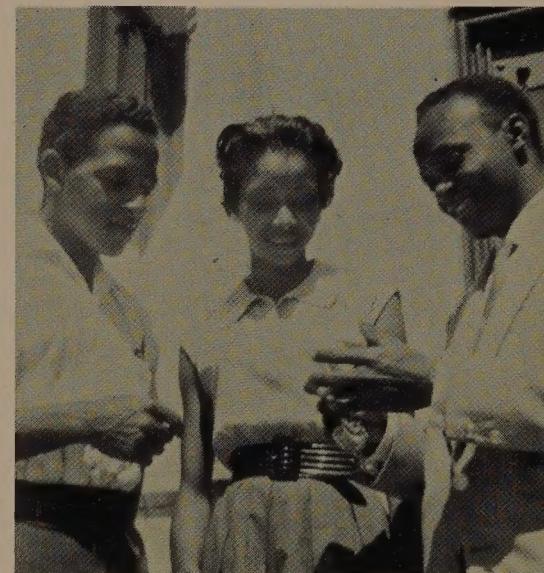
For the necessary funds we ask for generous contributions to Xavier which for thirty years has so well served our nation.

Send contributions to:

BUILDING FUND
Xavier University
Palmetto and Pine Streets
New Orleans 25, Louisiana



Mr. Jesse Dupart of the Class of '60, an active promoter of the ring project.



Mr. Juan Philips, Miss Rosemary Hardy and Mr. James Deslonde admire the WHEAT ring of the Class of '60.



Miss Katherine Ricks, art teacher, made the first ring.



a

changing

scene

in St. Martinville, Louisiana

In the early part of this century Reverend Mother Katharine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, studied the problem of the great number of Catholic Negro children in the country parishes of Louisiana deprived of the knowledge of their Faith and growing up, in many cases, without any education whatever.

In 1922, after an actual survey of the country, Reverend Mother Katharine conceived the plan of establishing small frame schools near a church, if possible, to be taught by Xaverian University graduates.

In conjunction with Most Rev. Jules B. Jeannard, D.D., then Bishop

of Lafayette, strategic sites in his diocese were selected and construction of buildings begun. Twenty-two schools were erected. These were to become monuments to the generosity and Christian vision of Mother Katharine.

From these educational foundations have grown today a number of thriving parishes with permanent schools taught by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The students of the first days form the educated parishioners of today and their children are continuing to share in the advantages of a Catholic education, which is preparing them for greater leadership in the future.

Sr. M. Jude with Mrs. Ruth Bastian and Miss Patricia St. Julien who are presently teaching at Notre Dame School and were themselves taught by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

A typical example of the advance which has been made from those pioneering days is that of Notre Dame School in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

Almost four decades of Catholic education have shown wonderful results. Today, the school is part of a busy parish, directed by the Fathers of the Divine Word. Great strides have been made since the first days when there was so little.

In 1953 Sister M. Jude, S.B.S., left St. Martinville after a number of happy years of missionary work there. This year, Sister returned for a second time, assigned to her bayou mission of happy memories. She couldn't believe that six years could make such a difference and she rejoiced to note the progress which had been made.

Sister renewed old acquaintances and met former pupils. In the classroom and in the school yard during the first weeks of school the children thought she was possessed of a sixth sense because she recognized almost everyone. Family names and features don't change.

Sister was overjoyed to notice a decided improvement in Notre Dame Parish spiritually, educationally and economically.

In addition to vigorous sodalities and societies there is the Nocturnal Adoration for the men of the parish every Friday night . . . a sign of real spiritual strength.

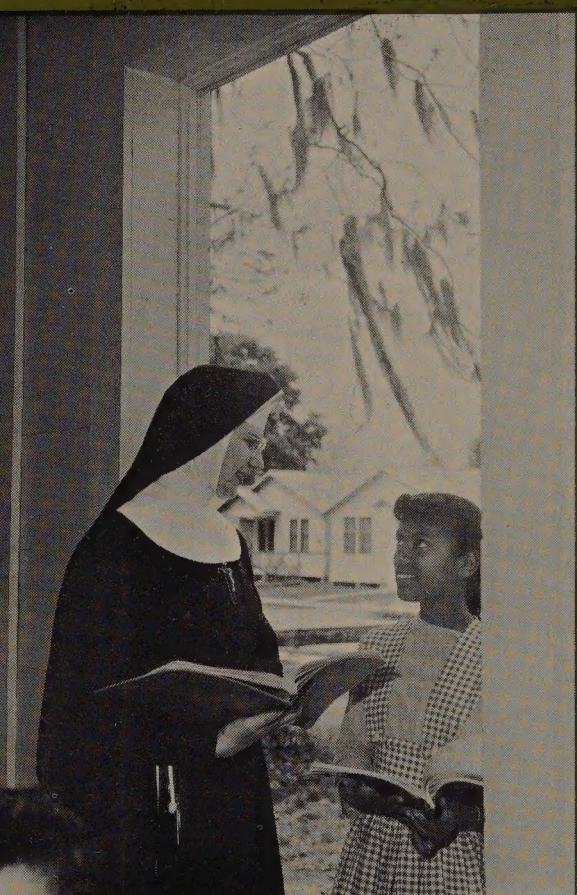
Another thrill for Sister is the Young Men's choir consisting of college and high school students. A strong parish life is surely a worthwhile attainment.

Since Sister Jude's return to St. Martinville she has noticed the increasing number of pupils who want to finish high school and even college. Xavier University which is conducted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in New Orleans, has enrolled a number of St. Martinville students. Many of the high school students have taken advantage of the school integration law and are now attending Southwest Louisiana Institute. Here their participation in many of the activities speaks for their eagerness to make the best use of the foundation they have already



Notre Dame's teen-agers talk over plans for their future with Sr. M. Louise.

... a changing scene (cont'd.)



Sr. Clara gets first hand information on improved farm methods.

Spanish moss hangs gracefully outside Sr. Agnes Marie's 7th grade classroom.



received in their primary and secondary education.

Many of Sister's former pupils have gone to Texas or California and have secured good Civil Service positions there, while others, especially the girls, are teachers in and around town. These are doing exceptionally fine work in the Public School System. Several of them help in the C.C.D. work in the parish. Two former pupils are teaching right there at their Alma Mater.

Economically there seems to have been an improvement also. The cane trucks on Sunday morning, bringing the entire family to an early Mass, have given way in some cases to



Sr. Maria Pacis with
some of the school
children at Notre
Dame School.



... a changing scene (cont'd.)



Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses Etienne celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary this year.

family automobiles. Many homes have been built and the new developments have given comfortable homes to a number of families. Newer farming methods have been adopted and the drudgery of former days has been lightened considerably.

This summer Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses Etienne are celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They have seen the progress in St. Martinville over the last half century and with the Sisters they thank God for what has been accomplished. With the Sisters, too, they realize that there is still a long road ahead to travel.

Visitations and instructions at nearby St. John's Plantation prove this without a doubt. Visiting a young Mother there, Sister realizes that the Faith has been planted. The beautiful Christian spirit of this Mother with her newly baptized children shows that. But in many ways she has a long way to go. Aid is needed. More religious instruction is needed. In the poor surroundings of the Plantation is a mission terrain anew.

Sister Jude rejoices at the progress.

Sister Jude is happy to start with the groundwork again wherever it is needed.

For in all of this Sister Jude is a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament . . . this is her life . . . she thanks God for it.



A visitation to St. John's Plantation.



A young mother at St. John's
Plantation.

Once they were students
at St. Catherine Indian
School in Santa Fe;

today

they

are

Governor and Mrs. Preston Kee-
vama of San Juan Pueblo with
their family.



When Katharine Drexel entered Mercy Convent in Pittsburgh in May, 1889 to begin her religious training, her missionary work among the Indians was already well established.

She had built and was supporting fourteen boarding and day schools for the education of Indians in eight different states. Among these was St. Catherine's Boarding School in Santa Fe. The urgent need for a teaching staff for this school had prompted her to ask Pope Leo XIII to send missionaries to the impoverished American Indians.

Her entrance into religious life was her generous answer to the Pope's question. "Why don't you become a missionary yourself?"

For 66 years St. Catherine's with its splendid elementary and state accredited high school has been educating the youth of the pueblos surrounding Santa Fe.

From the beginning Reverend Mother Katharine recognized a need to prepare Indian youth for leadership. She stressed the teaching of those skills and academic subjects that would prepare them to take their places in a changing civilization while encouraging the cultivation of the native arts and crafts that are an integral part of Indian culture.

Today the results of this educational program are apparent in the progressive leadership that is being exercised in the pueblos.

governors!

Three former St. Catherine's students are governors this year of their pueblos. Joseph E. Duran is governor of Tesuque. Jose Manuel Toya, who after his student days was employed as boys' advisor at St. Catherine's from 1910 to 1914, is governor of Jemez Pueblo; Preston Keevama is governor of San Juan Pueblo. These three governors are outstanding leaders among their people. They are men of high calibre of whom the Sisters who helped to form and train them may very well feel proud.

Governor Preston Keevama is typical of present day Indian leaders. Intelligent and progressive he does not let his one year term of office hinder him from using long range vision in his government of San Juan Pueblo. His comfortable home, which blends what is good and useful in modern conveniences with the gracious charm of the old Indian customs and culture, exemplifies what he is trying to do for his people. He is striving to bring about changes that will bring the pueblo up to date without sacri-



Governor and Mrs. Jose Manuel Toya of Jemez Pueblo with two daughters who attend St. Catherine's.

ficing any of its rich cultural heritage.

In a recent interview with Sr. Mary of Mercy, S.B.S., who is presently stationed at St. Catherine's, Governor Keevama explained the duties of a pueblo governor.

The office of Governor is the highest office of the pueblo. It is comparable with that of state governor or city mayor. While the problems are neither so numerous nor so varied, they are, nevertheless, equally decisive, for the governor is concerned not only with the Indian affairs within the pueblo but also with state legislation affecting Pueblo Indians. He is selected in January for a term of one year. He is assisted by an official staff composed of a first and second lieutenant, a

sheriff, and a war captain and his assistants. He transacts business with non-Indians on land problems which involve leases and irrigation; he cooperates with the police force on the state and local levels to maintain law and order; he summons the jury, which is composed of ex-governors and he presides at court sessions. Occasionally (for the Indian is a law-abiding citizen) he attends the Tribal Council which is the Court of Appeals for Indians. He is deeply interested in all phases of education. He encourages, makes contacts, and frequently interviews school authorities.

But his greatest problem is that of deciding what is best for his people. In a rapidly changing environment he prudently introduces those things

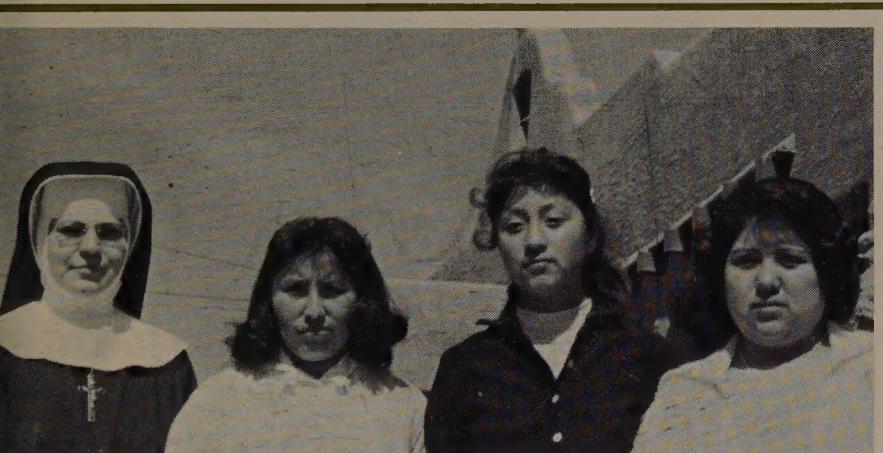
which are good while faithfully preserving the best of the old traditions. Here is where he exercises the many Christian virtues which he practiced as a young brave during his years at St. Catherine's Indian School.

Another sign of increasing Indian leadership is evident in the activities of a new auxiliary group founded last year to aid St. Catherine's School. Composed of former students and interested friends, this group succeeded during its first year, among other things, in remodeling and refurnishing the Home

Economics Department and providing a much needed piano for student activities.

In order that the Sisters may continue the wonderful work begun by Reverend Mother Katharine, teachers must be educated, buildings maintained. St. Catherine's, built in 1886 is in need of extensive repair. Would you like to help? Send contributions to:

MISSION FIELDS AT HOME
Red Lion and Knights Roads
Philadelphia 14, Pa.



Their fathers are governors. Aurelia Duran of Tesuque Pueblo, Connie Keevama of San Juan Pueblo and Josephine Toya of Jemez Pueblo attend St. Catherine's. They are pictured here with Sr. Clare Isabel.



Active members of the St. Catherine's Auxiliary Group.



Mother M. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955)

foundress of the Sisters
of the Blessed Sacrament

A great leader!



Today's novices
and postulants
prepare to
follow in her
footsteps

S.B.S. novices and postulants prepare for mission leadership! The home mission apostolate today calls for "leadership" — leadership in education for leadership! The Negro population in the United States today surpasses 18,000,000. The Indian population is estimated at 537,000. That these many may be one with us in Christ is the goal of the Eucharistic vocation of almost 600 Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. That the Indians and Colored People may realize the FULLNESS of their CITIZENSHIP in TIME and in ETERNITY, the S.B.S. are dedicated to a two-fold apostolate of prayer and service in 21 states.

For information write:

MISSION FIELDS AT HOME
Red Lion and Knights Roads, Philadelphia 14, Pa.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Sharon and Carol Kirk in their traditional Navaho Indian dress with Sr. Maura, S.B.S. at St. Michael School, St. Michaels, Arizona. This school is conducted and maintained by Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to train leaders among the Navaho and other Indian tribes.